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G1 nucleotides, and wherein said artemin amino acid sequence is at least 88% identical to SEQ ID NO:26, and wherein said amino acid sequence promotes survival of neurons, and wherein said polynucleotide also comprises a nucleotide sequence encoding a polypeptide containing an active domain of at least one other growth factor from the TGF- β superfamily.

G2 17. (Twice smended) The isolated and purified nucleic acid molecule of claim 15 comprising a nucleotide sequence encoding an artemin polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:3, SEQ ID NO:4, SEQ ID NO:5, SEQ ID NO:19, SEQ ID NO:34, SEQ ID NO:35 or SEQ ID NO:36. I

G3 23. (Thrice amended) An isolated and purified nucleic acid molecule comprising no more than 10,000 nucleotides, wherein said nucleic acid molecule encodes a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NOS: 3, 4, 5, 26, 29, 32, 33, 34, 35, 40, and 41, wherein said artemin amino acid sequence promotes survival of neurons.

G4 25. (Four times amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising an artemin nucleotide sequence, wherein the artemin nucleotide sequence encodes a naturally occurring artemin amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of a pre-pro-artemin polypeptide, a pro-artemin polypeptide, a mature artemin polypeptide and a fragment of said pre-pro-artemin amino acid sequence that is biologically equivalent to artemin, wherein said fragment has at least 8 contiguous amino acids, and wherein the artemin amino acid sequence is at least 88% identical to SEQ ID NO:26 and wherein said amino acid sequence promotes survival of neurons.

G5 27. (Four times amended) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a polynucleotide encoding: J